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October 23, 1962

1. At the Ambassadorial group meeting, the British Ambassador said his Government saw serious disadvantages in extending quarantine to include POL and would have serious reservations about such action. From his remarks, the disadvantages related to the fact that this would be putting the squeeze on the Cuban people, rather than directed against the offensive missiles.
2. In the Ambassadorial group, the question of our possible action against SAM sites was raised, and the United States side was unable to give any answer.

These matters were discussed in Mr. Nitze's committee where the feeling was it would be advisable, as far as possible, to tie the British, French, and Germans into the action we are taking in Cuba by letting them know in advance what we intended to do. It was pointed out, however, that this might provoke a message from Macmillan urging the President not to authorize action of this nature. If we do not do so and have to take the necessary action they will be free to divorce themselves from it if not to publicly condemn it.

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